

National Catholic Theater Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

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No. I

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THEATRE FOR VICTORY WEEK

Will you join in a national dramatic celebration Thanksgiving week? All School, College, and Community Theatres are urgently requested to schedule during the week of November 21--27 at least one performance with patriotic theme, and an organization to consolidate all areas has been established by the Theatre for Victory Council with headquarters at the University of Iowa.

Your endorsement of this effort to show in amateur theatre a solid front for the war effort can increase your prestige in your community, and can set a new record for cooperation in the Conference.

Write us if you will participate in Theatre for Victory Week.

RICHMOND'S ANNIVERSARY

Catholic Theatre Guild of Richmond celebrates its Fifth Anniversary on October 6 with review of hits, refreshments, and dancing. Good times are an old story to Father O'Kane's large group, but the birthday party bids to better all records -- reservations were necessarily closed on September 25.

But the five years haven't been devoted only to fun. In between "Informant" lines there is evident a deeply religious strain: 81 members of the Guild completed on September 12 the fifth annual retreat; at their Legion of Mary Shrine the rosary is repeated twice weekly for the "Honor Roll"; canteen entertainments begin and end with a prayer. Nor could you talk casually with a Guild member and fail to realize that here primarily is a Catholic group.

As for projects the Guild never lacks new ideas. Though other groups are called upon frequently for performers, we believe that Richmond's Guild is the only one that has tied up the best local talent (and much of it very youthful) and retails it on demand to the local Rotarians, et al. Their's is the only Catholic Stage Door Canteen with a regular schedule in their own hall of service men's entertainment, so far as we know.

With other Conference members, however, they share the resolve to keep alive and to continue building Catholic Theatre.

WELCOME VISITORS

While on their Broadway tour Father Schroeder and Father Donahue of Loras were guests of Mrs. Wyatt at the Carroll Club's September Literary Tea.

Time was too short to do justice to their endless supply of fruitful suggestions for good theatre. Highlighted were Loras College's 67 years of continued dramatic operation, with proof of artistic achievement in Kodachrome slides of recent productions.

Dubuque's forthcoming radio play contest: judges audition plays performed at studio mike; three "best" entries are broadcast.

DETROIT RECOVERS

Fast on the heels of Paul Lilly's departure with Red Cross Overseas, Catholic Theatre of Detroit lost its home. Yet today Catholic Theatre is the only civic group left in Detroit, and with Daniel Sunday as its O.D. it marches forward with an improved schedule.

In the face of Detroit's housing situation, the loss of a building with ten rehearsal rooms, workshop, gym, plus costume, property and technical offices, all given rent-free by the Jesuits for two years, could well have dissolved a less determined membership. It was a case of the Army needing space, and Catholic Theatre with 56 men in the services was not a group to object. Fourteen truckloads of equipment plus three pianos have been temporarily stored, and classes have repaired to three rented rooms in a nurses' home.

More important for its audiences, however - for the before-curtain work will be done just as carefully we have no doubt - is the change in playing houses. Hitherto Detroit has played three nights in the Art Institute, a 1200-chaired auditorium, but this year, following the proved preference of little theatres, an "intimate little theatre" has been booked and a week's performances of each production scheduled.

Cancelling its Season Book Drive in September, the Detroiters have been marketing a \$5. individual subscription to cover attendance at meetings and social events entitling the owner to a discount on major production tickets; also a \$25. Group Subscription to encourage theatre parties.

Not content with solving these administrative problems, the Directors organized the Children's Theatre, with acting, choral speaking, and dancing classes. Margaret Passmore heads the project. Through the Children's Theatre, too, regular matinee performances of young theatre are available to children of Detroit for a 25¢ admission fee.

Did they forget the scholarships? No; one went to Terry Little now studying at Feagin School, New York; that for technical ability, to Miss Sydney Bloom who chose to work at Detroit's Society of Arts and Crafts.

Add it to your Ripley's. The 25th of each month our copy will go to the mimeographer. Don't tempt us by suggesting that the item of the month will arrive in New York on the 26th, for it will have to wait for next issue. We think it important that you receive your Production Calendar as near the 1st as mail deliveries allow, and we are confident that you will make it possible to adhere to our schedule by supplying news early...please don't wait for the deadline (especially December's)

TELLING OTHERS

NCTC issues a call for volunteers to tell others about Catholic Theatre and the Conference. If you are willing to address groups and to travel not more than 100 miles (railroad and other expenses paid), let us know how many speeches you would make, the time you would be available, and the distance you would agree to travel.

Our object is to organize a Speakers Bureau that will have at its command competent lecturers with a missionary zeal for Catholic Theatre.

COMMUNITY THEATRES - BARS DOWN?

"So it seems that in order to carry on it will be necessary to select our male characters wherever we can find them as long as they meet with the standards of good character laid down by the Guild" reads one of our groups' publications.

Have your requisites for membership in your producing group been changed in the last year? Not idle curiosity, but valuable information to other groups! Right now we are asked

1) Whether you admit non-Catholics to full membership privileges?

2) Whether you admit non-Catholics to production participation but not voting privileges?

Will your group Secretary send us your answer?

The Service Bureau is maintained for the benefit of all NCTC members, unit and individual. How may we be of help to you this month?

Encouraging reports of the Mid-West's Play Reading Committee break the long wait for a Conference recommended play list. Our Chairman Mr. Costello, who headed the Committee for the Mid-West Region, and all the Executive Board Members consider this our first problem on the agenda, never fear. If the list is to represent recommendation and not hearsay opinion, however, its compilation requires hours of review as well as discussion of merit.

It is good to hear from Father James Donahue of Loras College, who with Mr. J. J. Walsh, S.J. of St. Mary's College, Kansas, has contributed concretely to the total job, that a good number of forgotten classics is included.

To any one who would contribute a share toward the final victory, the Conference issues a cordial invitation to secure the questionnaire followed by the Committee. Mr. Frank Wurtzsmith, Catholic Theatre of Detroit, 1234 Washington Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan, will gladly supply copies on request.

RIGHT FOOT FORWARD

A newly organized group in Canada is in step, we believe. No production for the first year, but study, invited speakers, and practice each week on the materials covered in acting, direction, and production. Congratulations!

HAVE YOU TRIED THESE?

"The Pie and the Tart" by Dondo; D. Appleton Century, pub.; four characters, easy to stage; winner in San Francisco Guild's contest for high schools in 1943.

"The Devil and Daniel Webster" by S.V. Bonot; Dramatists Play Service; 6 m (plus jury), 1 w; for your patriotic program.

"Red Carnations," Hughes; Samuel French; 2 m, 1 w; a comedy for your service men's entertainment.

"Op O' Me Thumb" by Penn & Pryce; Samuel French; 1 m, 5 w; a comedy for any purpose provided you have a talented, petite 'Op O' Me Thumb.

LOOKING AHEAD

Dayton - Blackfriars', filling most of the dates on its schedule, announces "Through the Night" by Ryerson and Clements for the end of October; "The Master of Nazareth" for mid-February; and after Lent, Felix Doherty's "Song Out of Sorrow".

Detroit - Catholic Theatre's first production: "The Willow and I", November 14 to 21; "Peck's Bad Boy" opens Children's Theatre season with performances scheduled November 13 and 20. On September 18, Catholic Theatre began its series of eighteen weekly dramatic radio programs, all employing original scripts from their play-writing group. Station WJLB is the channel from 2 to 2:15 each Saturday.

Dubuque - Loras College, delayed in its program-making by releases, has gone to work cutting "A Saint in a Hurry", Peman's multi-set biography of St. Francis Xavier.

Pittsburgh - Catholic Theatre Guild opens the year with "The Passing of the Third Floor Back". Hopes to produce Gheon's "The Comedian" later this season.

New York - The Blackfriars' begin casting "Career Angel" October 1st. If they find the thirty talented men required - outside of Equity's bars - production will be due the end of November. "Career Angel" as a first play has won attention for its author, B. M. Murray, from New York agents and his skill is sought by Max Reinhardt for the adaptation of Bernadette.

Richmond - Catholic Theatre Guild, celebrating its fifth birthday on October 6, will repeat familiar, favorite scenes from "Our Musical," "Peg O' My Heart," "Tom Sawyer," "Pepita," and "When Pilate Judges."

"Danger, Girls Working" will open this year's schedule later in October.

UP TO DATE

Contracts have been renewed with leading play publishers allowing to Unit (group) members of the Conference reductions in royalties on a special list of plays. Remember, certification of your active unit membership must be supplied to the publishers by the Service Bureau and notification of your intention to produce a play from the list must be given at least 30 days before performance date. Watch November Calendar for additional titles.

Dramatists Play Service

Doodle Dandy	reduced from \$10. to \$7.50
In Time To Come	25. 20.
Heaven Can Wait	50. 35-25
Ladies in Retirement	50. 35-25
Father Malachy's Miracle	35. 25.
Passenger to Bali	25. 20.
Shadow and Substance	35. 25.
Days without End	35. 30.

Samuel French

Ever Since Eve	25. 20-15
Letters to Lucerne	35-25 25-20
Tobias and the Angel	25. 20-15
Noah	25. 20.
A Man's House	25. 20.

Walter H. Baker

Little Plays of St. Francis	5 ea.
(More than 3 in one evening--)	15.

E. P. Dutton & Co.

Holy Night	25. 20.
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BROADWAY RELEASES? OR WITH THE PUBLISHERS

"Angel Street" - no release date
"Arsenic and Old Lace" - almost everywhere; Dramatists Play Service.
"Junior Miss" - restricted; after October 15 release dates may be assigned, but announcements of productions may not be made prior to or during stock company productions within 50 mile radius.

"The Patriots" - restricted; after October 15 release dates will be assigned.

"Tomorrow the World" - restricted.
Rights controlled by Dramatic Publishing Co., Chicago. Please write our Service Bureau if interested in production later this year.

A string on your finger: Your check for membership dues - Mail It Today!

